

Message Text

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44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
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R 111145Z AUG 75
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7263
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1275

EXDIS

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AORG, USNESCO
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE LEMAIRE VISIT TO JERUSALEM

REF: STATE 187600 (NOTAL), PARIS 19528

1. EMBASSY TEL AVIV IN BETTER POSITION THAN ARE WE TO COMMENT ON GOI POLICY OR INTENTIONS VIS-A-VIS JERUSALEM EXCAVATIONS. HOWEVER, WE NOT AWARE OF ANY PLANS TO TERMINATE THEM. IN FACT, AMBASSADOR COLLEGE GROUP FROM PASADENA EXPECTING TO RETURN TO TEMPLE MOUNT SITE NEXT SUMMER TO CONTINUE WORK. IT IS POSSIBLE CERTAIN ASPECTS OR PROJECTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AND THAT ANNOUNCEMENT TO THIS EFFECT CONTEMPLATED, BUT WE WOULD SERIOUSLY DOUBT ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANY GENERAL CESSATION OF WORK ON EXCABATIONS ESPECIALLY IF IT COULD BE INTERPRETED IN ANY WAY AS CAPITULATION TO UNESCO DEMANDS.

2. IT NOT CLEAR TO US WHAT MRS. LAMBERT MEANT BY "EXCAVATIONS IN ARAB QUARTER OF CITY". PRESUMABLY SHE MEANT EXCAVATIONS IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO TEMPLE MOUNT (HARAM-AS-SHARIF) CARRIED OUT UNDER DIRECTION PROF. BINYAMIN MAZAR, AS DISTINCT FROM THOSE IN JEWISH QUARTER. NOT CLEAR WHETHER SHE ALSO INCLUDED CONTROVERSIAL TUNNELING
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ALONG WEST SIDE OF HARAM (SEPARATE PROJECT UNDER MINISTRY

OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS) THAT WAS ALSO COVERED IN LEMAIRE
REPORT AND WHICH HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF REPEATED CRITICISM.
EVEN IF WORK ON FORMER DISCONTINUED (PERHAPS TEMPORARILY)
TO DO NOT BELIEVE THAT GOI WOULD COMMIT ITSELF NOT TO
PROCEED WITH TUNNEL (WORK ON WHICH IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN
SUSPENDED SOME TIME AGO BUT IS CLAIMED BY OTHERS TO BE
CONTINUING).
NEWLIN

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